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Department of
Agriculture**



National Agricultural Library

BIRDS
of the
SAWTOOTH
NATIONAL
RECREATIONAL
AREA



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United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Intermountain
Region

Sawtooth
National
Forest



BIRDS of the SAWTOOTH NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

INTRODUCTION

The Sawtooth National Recreation Area (SNRA), located in central Idaho, contains the headwaters of three major river systems and includes some of the most beautiful mountain ranges in the state. The famous "River of No Return" the Salmon, originates in the Sawtooth Mountains in the northern portion of the SNRA, the South Fork of the Payette drains the Sawtooths to the west and the Big Wood River flows south past world-famous Sun Valley ski resort. Habitats vary with elevation from ancient stands of limber pine at over 11,000 feet, through forests of Douglas-fir, subalpine fir, lodge pole pine and aspen, to grassland and sagebrush at 5200 feet. These diverse habitats provide food and shelter for approximately 219 species of birds that can be found on the SNRA either in migration or during the nesting season.

This list is intended to be used with a field guide to help identify and observe birds during your visit to the area. If you see any bird on the SNRA that is not on the list or is in the rare/endangered category, please report the sighting to the SNRA headquarters (eight miles north of Ketchum) or the Stanley Ranger Station. Need identification help? Feel free to stop by at either location for some friendly advice.

LEGEND

Abundance

- A = Abundant or common in large numbers
C = Common in suitable habitat
U = Uncommon
(present in small numbers)
O = Occasionally seen
R = Rare (recorded less than 5 times)

Habitat

- 1 = Lakes
2 = Marshes
3 = Riparian areas/rivers and streams
4 = Grasslands/meadows
5 = Sagebrush/brushlands
6 = Coniferous forests
7 = Deciduous forests
8 = Rocky areas and cliffs
9 = Buildings, towns

Season

- S = Spring — March to May
S = Summer — June to August
F = Fall — September to November
W = Winter — December to February

The species in italics are threatened, endangered or sensitive (a species exhibiting a downward trend in population or habitat). Species listed in bold are management indicator species (a species whose condition is in an indication of the overall health of the habitat it uses). Please report any sightings of these species to the Sawtooth NRA Headquarters or the Stanley Ranger Station also.

Name

LOONS



- ___ Red-throated Loon
- ___ Common Loon

GREBES



- ___ Pied-billed Grebe
- ___ Horned Grebe
- ___ Eared Grebe
- ___ Western Grebe
- ___ Clark's Grebe



PELICANS AND CORMORANTS

- ___ American White Pelican
- ___ Double-crested Cormorant



HERONS, BITTERNS, AND IBIS

- ___ American Bittern
- ___ Great Blue Heron
- ___ Cattle Egret
- ___ Black-crowned Night-Heron
- ___ White-faced Ibis

DUCKS, GEESE, AND SWANS



- ___ Tundra Swan
- ___ Snow Goose
- ___ Ross' Goose
- ___ Canada Goose
- ___ Wood Duck
- ___ Green-winged Teal
- ___ Mallard
- ___ Northern Pintail
- ___ Blue-winged Teal
- ___ Cinnamon Teal
- ___ Northern Shoveler
- ___ Gadwall
- ___ American Wigeon
- ___ Canvasback
- ___ Redhead
- ___ Ring-necked Duck
- ___ Lesser Scaup
- ___ Harlequin Duck
- ___ Surf Scoter
- ___ Common Goldeneye
- ___ Barrow's Goldeneye
- ___ Bufflehead
- ___ Hooded Merganser
- ___ Common Merganser
- ___ Ruddy Duck



S	Season		W	Habitat
	S	F		

	R			1
U	R	U		1
U	U	U		1, 2
		U		1, 2
U	U	U		1, 2
C	C	C		1, 2
	R			1, 2
		R		1
O	O			1
R	O	R		2
C	C	C	U	1, 2, 3
		R		1, 2, 3
O	O	O		1, 2, 3
R	R			1, 2, 3
U	O	C	R	1, 2, 3
O		O		1, 2, 3
C	C	C	O	1, 2, 3
C	C	C	O	1, 2, 3
U	U	R	R	1, 2, 3
C	C	C		1, 2, 3
A	A	C	U	1, 2, 3
U	U	A		1, 2, 3
O	U	O		1, 2, 3
C	O	O		1, 2, 3
U	U	U		1, 2, 3
U	U	U		1, 2, 3
C	U	C	R	1, 2, 3
O	O	O		1, 2, 3
O	O	O		1, 2, 3
U	U	U	R	1, 2, 3
U	U	O	O	1, 2, 3
R				3
O	O	O		1, 2, 3
C	C	C	U	1, 2, 3
O	O	U	O	1, 2, 3
O	O	O	O	1, 2, 3
R	R	R	R	1, 2, 3
C	C	C	C	1, 2, 3
U	U	U		1, 2, 3

Name



VULTURES

___ Turkey Vulture

EAGLES, HAWKS, AND FALCONS



___ Osprey

___ *Bald Eagle*

___ Northern Harrier

___ Sharp-shinned Hawk

___ Cooper's Hawk

___ *Northern Goshawk*

___ Swainson's Hawk

___ Red-tailed Hawk

___ Ferruginous Hawk

___ Rough-legged Hawk

___ Golden Eagle

___ American Kestrel

___ Merlin

___ *Peregrine Falcon*

___ Prairie Falcon



GROUSE, PARTRIDGES, AND QUAIL

___ Chukar

___ Spruce Grouse

___ Blue Grouse

___ Ruffed Grouse

___ **Sage Grouse**

___ Turkey

___ *Mountain Quail*



RAILS, COOTS, AND CRANES

___ Virginia Rail

___ Sora

___ American Coot

___ Sandhill Crane



PLOVERS

___ Semipalmated Plover

___ Killdeer



STILTS AND AVOCETS

___ Black-necked Stilt

___ American Avocet



SANDPIPERS

___ Greater Yellowlegs

___ Lesser Yellowlegs

___ Solitary Sandpiper

___ Willet

___ Spotted Sandpiper



S	Season S	F	W	Habitat
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U	U	U		4, 5, 6, 7, 8
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C	C	C		1, 2, 3
O	R	O	U	1, 2, 3
C	C	C	O	1, 2, 3
U	U	U	U	1, 2, 3
U	U	U	U	1, 2, 3
O	O	O	U	6, 7
U	C	O		4, 5
C	C	U	U	4, 5, 6, 7
R		R		4, 5
U		U	U	4, 5
C	C	C	C	4, 5, 8
C	A	C	R	4, 5, 6, 7
	R	R	R	4, 5, 6, 7
R	R	R		2, 3, 8
U	U	U	R	4, 5, 8

U	U	U	U	8
C	C	C	U	6
C	C	C	U	6, 7
U	U	U	R	6, 7
U	U	U	U	5
R	R	R	R	6, 7
		R	R	3

U	U	U		2
C	C	C	R	2
U	U	U		1, 2, 3
C	C	C		2, 3, 4

R				1, 2
A	A	A	R	1, 2, 3, 4

O	O	O		1, 2
U	U	U		1, 2

O		O		1, 2
O		O		1, 2
R		R		2, 3
O	O	O		1, 2
C	C	C		1, 2, 3

Name

- ___ Long-billed Curlew
- ___ Western Sandpiper
- ___ Least Sandpiper
- ___ Common Snipe
- ___ Wilson's Phalarope
- ___ Red-necked Phalarope

GULLS AND TERNS



- ___ Franklin's Gull
- ___ Ring-billed Gull
- ___ California Gull
- ___ Caspian Tern
- ___ Forster's Tern



PIGEONS AND DOVES

- ___ Rock Dove
- ___ Mourning Dove

OWLS



- ___ Barn Owl
- ___ *Flammulated Owl*
- ___ Western Screech Owl
- ___ Great Horned Owl
- ___ Snowy Owl
- ___ Northern Pygmy-Owl
- ___ *Great Gray Owl*
- ___ Long-eared Owl
- ___ Short-eared Owl
- ___ *Boreal Owl*
- ___ Northern Saw-whet Owl

GOATSUCKERS



- ___ Common Nighthawk
- ___ Common Poorwill

SWIFTS



- ___ Black Swift
- ___ Vaux's Swift

HUMMINGBIRDS



- ___ Black-chinned Hummingbird
- ___ Calliope Hummingbird
- ___ Broad-tailed Hummingbird
- ___ Rufous Hummingbird



KINGFISHERS

- ___ Belted Kingfisher



WOODPECKERS

- ___ Lewis' Woodpecker
- ___ Red-naped Sapsucker

Season				Habitat
S	S	F	W	
U	U	U		2, 4
R		R		1, 2
O	O	O		1, 2
C	C	C	U	2
C	C	O		1, 2
R				1, 2
R				1, 2, 3
A	A	C		1, 2, 3
C	C	C		1, 2, 3
O	O	O		1, 2, 3
O	O	O		1, 2, 3
O	O	O	O	8, 9
O	U	U		4, 5, 6, 7
R	R	R		2, 4, 9
R	R			6, 7
R	R	R		3
C	C	C	C	3,4,5,6,7,8,9
			R	2, 4
U	U	U	O	6, 7
R	R	R	R	6, 7
O	O	O		3, 6, 7
U	U	U		2, 4
R	R	R	R	6, 7
U	U	U	U	6, 7
U	C	C		4, 6, 7
R	O			6, 7, 8
R	R			8
O	O			6, 7
C	C	U		3, 4
C	C	U		3, 4
C	C	U		5, 6, 7
U	C	C		5, 6, 7
C	C	C	C	1, 2, 3
C	C	C		3
C	C	C		6, 7

Name

- _____ Williamson's Sapsucker
- _____ Downy Woodpecker
- _____ Hairy Woodpecker
- _____ *Three-toed Woodpecker*
- _____ Black-backed Woodpecker
- _____ Northern Flicker
- _____ **Pileated Woodpecker**

FLYCATCHERS

- _____ Olive-sided Flycatcher
- _____ Western Wood Pewee
- _____ Willow Flycatcher
- _____ Hammond's Flycatcher
- _____ Dusky Flycatcher
- _____ Cordilleran Flycatcher
- _____ Say's Phoebe
- _____ Western Kingbird
- _____ Eastern Kingbird



LARKS

- _____ Horned Lark

SWALLOWS

- _____ Tree Swallow
- _____ Violet-green Swallow
- _____ Northern Rough-winged Swallow
- _____ Bank Swallow
- _____ Cliff Swallow
- _____ Barn Swallow



JAYS, MAGPIES, AND CROWS

- _____ Gray Jay
- _____ Steller's Jay
- _____ Clark's Nutcracker
- _____ Black-billed Magpie
- _____ American Crow
- _____ Common Raven



CHICKADEES

- _____ Black-capped Chickadee
- _____ Mountain Chickadee
- _____ Chestnut-backed Chickadee



NUTHATCHES

- _____ Red-breasted Nuthatch
- _____ White-breasted Nuthatch



CREEPERS

- _____ Brown Creeper

Season

S

S

F

W

Habitat

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4, 5, 6, 7, 8

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Name

WRENS



- _____ Rock Wren
- _____ Canyon Wren
- _____ House Wren
- _____ Winter Wren



DIPPERS

- _____ American Dipper

THRUSHES



- _____ Golden-crowned Kinglet
- _____ Ruby-crowned Kinglet
- _____ Western Bluebird
- _____ Mountain Bluebird
- _____ Townsend's Solitaire
- _____ Veery
- _____ Swainson's Thrush
- _____ Hermit Thrush
- _____ American Robin
- _____ Varied Thrush



THRASHERS

- _____ Gray Catbird
- _____ Sage Thrasher



WATER PIPITS

- _____ Water Pipit



WAXWINGS

- _____ Bohemian Waxwing
- _____ Cedar Waxwing



SHRIKES

- _____ Northern Shrike
- _____ Loggerhead Shrike



STARLINGS

- _____ European Starling



VIREOS

- _____ Solitary Vireo
- _____ Warbling Vireo
- _____ Red-eyed Vireo

WOOD WARBLERS



- _____ Orange-crowned Warbler
- _____ Nashville Warbler
- _____ Yellow Warbler
- _____ Yellow-rumped Warbler
- _____ Townsend's Warbler
- _____ Northern Waterthrush
- _____ MacGillivray's Warbler
- _____ Common Yellowthroat
- _____ Wilson's Warbler

Season				Habitat
S	S	F	W	

U	U	U		8
U	U	U		8
C	C	U	R	6, 7
O	O	O	O	6
C	C	C	C	3
C	C	C	O	6
C	C	C	O	6, 7
R	R	R		4, 5, 7
C	C	C		4, 5, 7
C	C	C	O	5, 6
O	O			3
C	C	C		6, 7
C	C	C		6, 7
A	C	C	O	3, 4, 5, 6, 7
U	O	O	R	6
U	U	U		3, 5
U	U	U		5
O	O	O		3, 4
O	R	U	U	5, 6, 7
O	O	O	R	5, 6, 7
U	U	U	O	5, 6, 7
O	O	O		5, 6, 7
C	C	C	O	9
O	O	O		6, 7
C	C	C		3, 6, 7
O	O	O		5, 6, 7
O	O	O		3, 6, 7
R	R			5, 6, 7
C	C	C		3
C	C	C		6, 7
C	C	C		6
R	R	R		3
C	C	U		3
C	C	U		2, 3
C	C	U		3

Name



TANAGERS

_____ Western Tanager

GROSBEAKS, SPARROWS, AND BUNTINGS



_____ Rose-breasted Grosbeak

_____ Black-headed Grosbeak

_____ Lazuli Bunting

_____ Green-tailed Towhee

_____ Rufous-sided Towhee

_____ American Tree Sparrow

_____ Chipping Sparrow

_____ Brewer's Sparrow

_____ Vesper Sparrow

_____ Lark Sparrow

_____ Sage Sparrow

_____ Savannah Sparrow

_____ Fox Sparrow

_____ Song Sparrow



_____ Lincoln's Sparrow

_____ White-crowned Sparrow

_____ Harris' Sparrow

_____ Dark-eyed Junco

_____ Snow Bunting

BLACKBIRDS, MEADOWLARKS, AND ORIOLES



_____ Red-winged Blackbird

_____ Western Meadowlark

_____ Yellow-headed Blackbird

_____ Brewer's Blackbird

_____ Common Grackle

_____ Brown-headed Cowbird

_____ Northern Oriole

FINCHES



_____ Rosy Finch

_____ Pine Grosbeak

_____ Purple Finch

_____ Cassin's Finch

_____ House Finch

_____ Red Crossbill

_____ White-winged Crossbill

_____ Common Redpoll

_____ Pine Siskin

_____ American Goldfinch

_____ Evening Grosbeak



OLD WORLD SPARROWS

_____ House Sparrow

S	Season		W	Habitat
	S	F		

C	C	C		6, 7
---	---	---	--	------

R	R	R		6, 7
C	C	C		3, 6, 7
C	C	C		3, 6, 7
O	O	O		5
C	C	C	O	3, 5
		O	O	3, 5
C	C	U		6
C	C	C		5
C	C	C		5
C	O	O		5
U	U	U		5
C	C	U		2, 4
U	U	U		3, 7
C	C	C	U	2, 3
C	C	U		2, 3
C	C	C		5, 6, 7
R		R	R	5, 6, 7
C	C	C	O	5, 6, 7
		R	U	4

A	A	A	O	2, 3
C	C	C		4, 5
O	O	O	R	2
A	A	A	R	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
O	R	R		6, 7
C	C	C		5, 6, 7
U	U	U		3, 7

U	U	U	C	4, 8
O	O	O	O	6
R	R	R		6, 7
C	C	C	O	6
R				5, 7
C	U	U	U	6, 7
	R	R	O	6, 7
O			U	5, 6, 7
C	C	C	C	6, 7
U	U	U	O	3, 5, 7
C	C	C		6, 7

O	O	O	O	9
---	---	---	---	---

Name

The following species are accidentals. They not normally occur here.

ACCIDENTALS

- _____ Gyrfalcon
- _____ Bonaparte's Gull
- _____ Black Tern
- _____ White-headed Woodpecker
- _____ Marsh Wren
- _____ Lark Bunting
- _____ Great-tailed Grackle

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This list contains birds seen and recorded by Forest Service personnel, as well as Idaho Department of Fish and Game personnel and local birdwatchers.

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Season
S S F W

Habitat

have been seen on the Sawtooth NRA but do

4, 5
1, 2, 3
2, 3
6
2
5
4, 9

NOTES

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